



ORTAB
Advisory Board Teleconference
June 29th, 2005
550 W 7th Ave., Ste. 1390
Anchorage, Alaska



Samantha calls meeting called to order @ 10:05 a.m.

Members Present:

- Bobby Andrew –Dillingham
- Susie Byersdorfer – Kodiak
- Ken Lancaster – Soldotna
- Rich Macintyre – Sitka
- Paul Sandhofer – Anchorage

- Gia Hanna -Kotzebue

Members Absent:

- Bish Buckle, Chair – Wasilla
- Bruce Friend – Anchorage
- Wendell Shiffler – Fairbanks

Staff Present:

- Margaret Brodie –ASP Admin. & Grants Manager
- Samantha Carroll –ASP Rec. Trails Coordinator
- Mike Eberhardt –ASP Southeast Area Superintendent
- Dennis Heikes –ASP Mat-Su Area Superintendent
- Michaela Phillips –ASP Clerical Support

Alaska Trails Initiative Grant Program

The Alaska Trails Initiative awarded \$4 million to 16 entities that were specified within the bill for recreational trail projects. Funds were awarded through Sen. Ted Stevens' Congressional Bill and are being disbursed through FHWA. Of these 16 entities, 14 are eligible to receive FHWA funding and to apply for grants through this program. All \$4 million in funding is available for projects, excluding 5% which has been earmarked for administrative costs. ASP and FHWA administrative costs are included within this 5%.

Entities eligible for funding are:

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| 1. Arctic Valley Trails | 5. Iditarod Trails | 10. Perseverance Trail Repairs |
| 2. Chugach Forest Russian River Trails | 6. Juneau Nordic Trails | 11. Sitka Trail Works |
| 3. Girdwood Trails | 7. Juneau Thunder Trails | 12. Sitka World War II Causeway |
| 4. Hatcher Pass Trails | 8. Kodiak Trails | 13. State of Alaska Wildlife Trail |
| | 9. Matanuska Susitna Gorsuch Trails | 14. Wrangell St. Elias Trails |

The application and procedures for the grant program was designed by a working group of Alaska State Park staff, the National Park Service, Alaska Trails (Non-Profit), the Forest Service and the Federal Highways Land Division. The working group also set up a contact list of eligible groups. The groups were contacted and applications were made available on the State website. Media Releases have also been sent out. It is anticipated that Sen. Stevens will also be sending out Media Releases. Applications are due July 22nd. ORTAB members will receive copies of all applications and scoring instructions and sheets the week of July 29th. Board members will have at least 2 weeks to read and score the applications. The board will then meet on August 12th to score applications. When scoring applications, the board should take into consideration to fund as many projects as possible. The way the applications were created, the applicants are asked to provide outlines of their projects in phases. This aspect will allow the program to fund certain phases of each project. Applicants will not be required to provide a match for funds they receive from the program. Funds will be disbursed monthly and will require a monthly status and financial report from grantees. It is preferable for the grantees projects to show progress on the ground as soon as possible.

Recreational Trails Program

ASP sought ORTAB's opinions and comments on the use of Recreational Trail funds in regards to a dual program. One aspect of the dual program would include public grants and the other aspect would be for the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation to utilize any leftover funds within its internal trails program. FHWA allocates funds each year for the RTP. The State DOT has set an obligation limitation amount of 87% of those funds. The remaining 13% cannot be used for the RTP however DOT has a mechanism to utilize these remaining funds on certain DOT projects. DOT may use the same mechanism to utilize any RTP funds that are not granted out. Authorized funds not spent within its useful life, including any unused funds from RTP's will lapse and return to the Federal Treasury if not utilized within the Recreational Trails Program or by DOT. ASP would utilizing these leftover funds within it's trail programs does not replace the grant program. Grant applications get funded first, whatever is left over will be spent on recreational trails within the State Park System. All work performed and purchases made with these remaining funds will need to stay within the 30/30/40 program requirements. There was no opposition from board members present.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.